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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)	Before the Examiner
B. Thomas Barker)	M. J. Araj
Serial No. 10/824,752)	Group Art Unit
Filed April 15, 2004)	3733
TRANSFER RING FOR OFFSET)	Confirmation No.
TAPERED 3D CONNECTOR)	7045

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. List of All Patents, Publications, U.S. Applications, or Other Information

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 form(s) (commonly referred to as a PTO-1449 form) and/or the additional information identified below.

- ☐ I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Mailing Label No. EV _____ US, on the date indicated below.
- ☒ I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below.

Christopher A. Brown

Typed/printed name of person signing this certificate

Signature

April 19, 2007

Date

04/20/2007 HDEMSS1 00000026 10824752

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Serial No. 10/824,752
#458996

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Attorney Docket:4002-1675/PC345.00

2. Enclosed Legible Copies

- 2a. A legible copy of each foreign patent document and publication listed on the PTO/SB/08 form is enclosed,
- ☐ i. except, a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. _____, filed _____ from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120.
- ☐ ii. except, a copy is not provided for each cumulative reference and enclosed reference identified below:
- ☐ 2b. A copy of the specification and drawings for each cited unpublished U.S. application.
- ☐ 2c. A copy of a Search Report or Written Opinion from a foreign patent office is also enclosed.
- ☐ 2d. Consideration of the enclosed additional and/or below discussed information is requested.

3. Concise Explanation of Relevance for Non-English Language Information

For each non-English language reference listed on the attached SB/08 form(s), reference is made to:

- ☐ 3a. an English language translation submitted herewith,
- ☐ 3b. foreign patent office Search Report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
- ☐ 3c. an English language translation of a foreign patent office Search Report submitted herewith,
- ☐ 3d. the concise explanation contained in the present application at page(s) _____,
- ☐ 3e. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- ☐ 3f. a copy of a related patent publication (in the English language) cited herewith,

Foreign Patent Document	Corresponding English Language Patent Document

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Attorney Docket:4002-1675/PC345.00

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☐ 3g. the following concise explanation: ____.

4. Time for Filing

☐ 4a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

☐ i. for U.S. national applications or national stage PCT applications (not including CPAs and RCEs), within 3 months of filing or entry into national stage; or

☐ ii. for U.S. national applications, national stage PCT applications, CPAs or RCEs, before the first Office Action on the merits,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

☒ 4b. This information Disclosure Statement is submitted after three months from the filing date and after the first Office Action on the merits, but prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, and thus:

☐ i. the statement specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e) is provided below, or

☒ ii. a fee of \$180.00 (set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p)) is enclosed.

☐ 4c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

☐ i. the statement specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e) is provided below, and a fee of \$ (set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p)) is enclosed, or

☐ ii. a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee of 37 CFR §1.17(e) has been filed.

☐ 4d. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted after payment of the issue fee, and thus:

i. a Petition to Withdraw from Issue pursuant to 37 CFR §1.313(c)(2) has been filed, and

ii. a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee of 37 CFR §1.17(e) has been filed.

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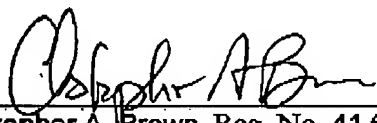
Attorney Docket:4002-1675/PC345.00

5. Certification- Statement Under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

- ☐ 5a. It is hereby certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ 5b. A copy of a dated communication from a foreign patent office which clearly shows the statement is being submitted within three (3) months of the date on the communication is enclosed.
- ☐ 5c. It is hereby certified that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b). It is believed that no additional fees are required. Should any other fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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(317) 634-3456

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WEMMH PTO/9B/08a (09-06)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/824,752
				Filing Date	04/15/2004
				First Named Inventor	BARKER, B. Thomas
				Art Unit	3733
				Examiner Name	Araj, Michael J.
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	4002-1675/PC345.00

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4,170,990	10/16/1979	Baumgart et al.	
		US- 4,198,081	04/15/1980	Harrison et al.	
		US- 4,880,343	11/14/1989	Matsumoto	
		US- 5,246,443	09/21/1993	Mai	
		US- 5,290,289	03/01/1994	Sanders et al.	
		US- 5,366,331	11/22/1994	Erbes	
		US- 5,540,689	07/30/1996	Sanders et al.	
		US- 5,551,871	09/03/1996	Besselink et al.	
		US- 5,584,695	12/17/1996	La Sachdeva et al.	
		US- 5,586,983	12/24/1996	Sanders et al.	
		US- 5,643,263	07/01/1997	Simonson	
		US- 5,643,264	07/01/1997	Sherman et al.	
		US- 5,645,544	07/08/1997	Tai et al.	
		US- 5,709,885	01/20/1998	Dombrowski et al.	
		US- 5,885,285	03/23/1995	Simonson	
		US- 5,885,285	03/23/1999	Simonson	
		US- 5,976,135	11/02/1999	Sherman et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
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WEMMH #112894 (Rev. 1/08)

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Sheet	2	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	4002-1675/PC345.00

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
		US- 6,183,473	02/06/2001	Ashman	
		US- 6,402,749	06/11/2002	Ashman	
		US- 6,471,703	10/29/2002	Ashman	
		US- 6,520,962	02/18/2003	Taylor et al.	
		US- 6,520,990	02/18/2003	Ray	
		US- 6,562,038	05/13/2003	Morrison	
		US- 6,572,618	06/03/2003	Morrison	
		US- 6,579,292	06/17/2003	Taylor	
		US- 4,987,892	01/1991	Krag et al.	
		US- 5,047,029	09/1991	Aebi et al.	
		US- 5,053,034	10/1991	Olerud	
		US- 5,411,523	05/1995	Goble	
		US- 5,505,731	04/1998	Tornier	
		US- 5,624,440	04/1997	Huebner	
		US- 5,645,599	07/1997	Samani	
		US- 5,681,135	10/1997	Simonson	
		US- 5,947,967	09/1999	Barker	

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WEMMH #112894 (Rev. 1/05)

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		Number-Kind Code ² (If known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
		US- 6,004,323	12/1989	Weinstein	
		US- 6,058,753	05/2000	Jackson	
		US- 6,234,705	05/2001	Troxell	
		US- 6,248,107	06/2001	Foley et al.	
		US- 2002/0013585 A1	01/2002	Gourmay et al.	
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